

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

**IN RE: KATRINA CANAL BREACHES
CONSOLIDATED LITIGATION**

CIVIL ACTION

NO. 05-4182

PERTAINS TO: LEVEE & MRGO

SECTION "K"(2)

**05-4181, 05-4182, 05-4191, 05-4568,
05-5237, 05-6073, 05-6314, 05-6324,
05-6327, 05-6359, 06-0020, 06-1885,
06-0225, 06-0886, 06-11208, 06-2278,
06-2287, 06-2346, 06-2545, 06-3529,
06-4065, 06-4389, 06-4634, 06-4931,
06-5032, 06-5042, 06-5159, 06-5163,
06-5367, 06-5471, 06-5771, 06-5786,
06-5937, 06-7682, 07-0206, 07-0647,
07-0993, 07-1284, 07-1286, 07-1288,
07-1289**

FINAL ORDER AND JUDGMENT

Except as otherwise expressly provided below or as the context otherwise requires, all capitalized terms used in this Final Order and Judgment ("Final Order and Judgment") shall have the meanings and/or definitions given them in the Class Settlement Agreement entered into by and on behalf of the Settlement Class, and the Settling Defendants, adopting the terms and conditions of the Class Settlement Agreement approved by this Court's Order dated December 15, 2008 (Rec. Doc. 16721) and the Amendments to the Class Settlement Agreement approved by this Court's Order dated July 10, 2009 (Rec. Doc. 19118). A copy of the Class Settlement Agreement as amended (Rec. Doc. 19254) ("Class Settlement Agreement") is attached as *in globo* Exhibit "1" to this Final Order and Judgment.

In light of this Court's Order dated September 8, 2009 granting the Motion for Approval of a Proposed Class Action Settlement (Rec. Doc. 19255), accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that:

(1) The Joint Motion is approved, and the Class Settlement Agreement and the settlement contained therein, including (i) any amendments or corrections (including the amendments this Court approved on July 10, 2009, Rec. Doc. 19118), (ii) all terms and conditions thereto, and (iii) all attached exhibits, are now finally approved by the Court pursuant to applicable law, including Rules 23(a), (b)(1)(B) and (e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

(2) The preliminary approval of the Class Representatives and Class Counsel is hereby confirmed, and the Class Representatives and Class Counsel are approved.

(3) Each and every term, provision, condition and agreement of the Class Settlement Agreement, including all exhibits and amendments thereto, are hereby made part of this Final Order and Judgment as if copied herein *in extenso* and shall be effective, implemented and enforced as provided therein.

(4) On the Effective Date of Class Settlement, all Released Claims asserted against the Released Parties in the Litigation are dismissed with prejudice; provided however, that the Litigation shall not be dismissed in its entirety, but shall remain open to facilitate the jurisdiction retained by the Court in Paragraph 8 below.

(5) The stay (including discovery) of all Claims asserted against the Released Parties in the federal Pending Actions contained in the Preliminary Approval Order is hereby re-confirmed and remains in effect. Further, all Claims asserted against the Released Parties in the remaining Pending Actions are stayed (including discovery). "Pending Actions" as used herein

means any and all lawsuits, administrative claims or other actions, however asserted (including but not limited to any and all petitions, complaints, third-party demands, cross-claims and counter-claims), in which a Released Claim has been, or is, asserted (including but not limited to those lawsuits identified on Exhibit "A" to the Class Settlement Agreement, as amended). Pending the Effective Date of Class Settlement, Class Members are enjoined from pursuing the Released Claims against the Released Parties, including but not limited to all Claims asserted against the Released Parties in the Pending Actions (as well as discovery against the Released Parties in the Pending Actions absent further order of this Court). On the Effective Date of Class Settlement, all Claims asserted against the Released Parties in the Pending Actions, shall be dismissed with prejudice. The Class Members, through their Counsel, shall file in the Pending Actions appropriate Final Judgments to effectuate such dismissals to be entered in each of these cases. No finding, judgment, adjudication, or verdict rendered in the Pending Actions after the date of this Final Order and Judgment, or rendered by any Court and/or jury in any proceeding or action after the Claims in such proceeding or action have been stayed or enjoined as to the Released Parties, shall be binding or have any precedential effect on the Released Parties.

(6) On the Effective Date of Class Settlement, the Released Parties are hereby finally released from any and all Released Claims by, through, or on behalf of a Class Member in state or federal court.

(7) On the Effective Date of Class Settlement, each and every Class Member (and all persons claiming by, through or on behalf of a Class Member), are hereby finally and permanently barred and enjoined from instituting, continuing, maintaining or prosecuting any actions against the Released Parties with respect to any and/or all Released Claims in state or federal court.

(8) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Final Order and Judgment and/or the Class Settlement Agreement, the Court reserves continuing jurisdiction over the Litigation, the Class, the Class Members, and the Class Settlement Agreement for the purpose of administering, supervising, construing and enforcing the Class Settlement Agreement, and also continuing and exclusive jurisdiction over the Class Settlement Funds and the distribution of same to Class Members.

(9) The Court's retention of jurisdiction as set forth above shall not affect the finality of this Final Order and Judgment. Further, the Court hereby makes an express determination that there is no just reason for delay and orders entry of this Final Order and Judgment. Accordingly, this Final Order and Judgment is immediately appealable pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 54(b).

(10) Class Counsel and counsel of any Class Member shall have the right to seek an award from the Escrowed Funds for fees, costs and expenses (including any enhancement of costs and expenses as may be awarded by the Court) and shall have the right to make an application to the Court for same; provided however, that such request(s) may be made only after the occurrence of the Effective Date of Class Settlement, and provided that Class Counsel have expressly waived any right to seek attorneys' fees.

(11) After the occurrence of the Effective Date of Class Settlement and upon considering recommendations to be made by the Parties, the Court will appoint a Special Master to serve upon and after the Effective Date of Class Settlement. After the Effective Date of Class Settlement and upon such appointment, and after the Court's approval, the Special Master shall have the authority to contract with others to appoint such agents that may be necessary to carry out the Special Master's responsibilities. After the Effective Date of Class Settlement, the

Special Master's duties and responsibilities shall include but are not limited to the study and recommendation to the Court of the proper and best disposition and/or protocol for the distribution of the Class Settlement Funds, and whether the distribution should be made for the benefit of the Class as a whole or to individual Class Members. At all times, the Special Master shall carry out his/her responsibilities in as economical and effective manner as possible. Except as provided in Section III(12)(b) of the Class Settlement Agreement, the Special Master must obtain Court Approval for any requested payment from the remaining Escrowed Funds. Notwithstanding the foregoing or any other provision of this Class Settlement Agreement or of any other document or the Preliminary approval Order or this Final Order and Judgment, the Special Master shall not be entitled to any compensation payment from, and shall have no rights in, the Escrowed Funds unless there is the occurrence of the Effective Date of Class Settlement. Subject to the foregoing, the Special Master shall be paid in accordance with a proposed budget submitted in advance and approved by Class Counsel, and approved by the Court.

(12) The Court hereby re-confirms the appointment of CADA Daniel H. Clavier, Jr., CPA, Bourgeois Bennett, 111 Veterans Blvd. 17th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70005, Phone: (504) 831-4949; Fax: (504) 833-9093 as the CADA. If he shall be unable to serve for any reason, the Court shall appoint a CADA upon motion by the Plaintiffs or the Settling Defendants. The CADA's duties include but are not limited to the payment of amounts from the Escrowed Funds prior to the Effective Date of Class Settlement as limited by the terms of the Class Settlement Agreement (including specifically Sections III(12)(a) and 12(b) thereof), and after the Effective Date of Class Settlement assisting the Special Master in the administration and disposition of the remaining Escrowed Funds, or as so ordered by the Court. Except as provided in Section III(12)(b) of the Class Settlement Agreement, the CADA must obtain Court approval for any

requested payment from the Escrowed Funds. Subject to the foregoing, the CADA shall be paid in accordance with a proposed budget submitted in advance and (a) approved (i) by Class Counsel and by counsel for St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company (to the extent that the work is to be, or may be, undertaken prior to the Effective Date of Class Settlement) and (ii) by Class Counsel (to the extent that the work is to be undertaken after the Effective Date of Class Settlement), and (b) approved by the Court.

(13) Subject expressly to the limitations set forth in the Class Settlement Agreement and this Court's Final Order and Judgment, Notice Costs, Special Master fees and costs, Escrow Agent costs and fees, CADA fees and costs, the fees and costs of any Person retained by the Special Master or CADA, and other costs, fees and expenses incurred in the implementation of the Class Settlement Agreement (including but not limited to the costs and fees of all experts of the Parties) and the disposition of the Escrowed Funds may be paid from the Escrowed Funds.

(14) Until the Effective Date of Class Settlement, no funds in the Escrow Account shall be used or disbursed other than to pay certain fees, taxes, costs and expenses as provided in the Class Settlement Agreement (including specifically Sections III(12)(a) and (12)(b) thereof). Prior to the Effective Date of Class Settlement, except with regard to any possessory lien and/or security interest that may be granted to the Escrow Agent under the Escrow Agreement solely to secure the payment of amounts coming due to the Escrow Agent under the Escrow Agreement (i) St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company has, and shall retain, exclusive right, title and interest, both legal and equitable, in and to the Escrowed Funds (including without limitation the Insurance Policy Limits, the Judicial Interest and all Accrued Interest), and (ii) no other Person (including, but not limited to, Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' counsel, counsel for any Class Member, the Special Master, the CADA, Class Counsel and Class Members) shall have any right, title or

interest, whether legal or equitable, in or to said Escrowed Funds; provided however, that this provision shall not prevent the payment of Notice Costs and amounts that may be paid to the CADA, the Escrow Agent and/or St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company prior to the Effective Date of Class Settlement from the Escrowed Funds pursuant to Sections III(12)(a) and/or III(12)(b) of the Class Settlement Agreement.

(15) Upon the occurrence of a Class Termination Event, notice of same shall be filed into the record in the Litigation.

(16) Notwithstanding any other provision of the Class Settlement Agreement (or of any other document) or the Preliminary Approval Order or this Final Order and Judgment, if the Class Settlement Agreement is terminated, (a) the Class Settlement Agreement shall have no effect on the rights of the Parties or the Class Members (i) to take action in support of or in opposition to class certification in the Pending Actions, or any other action; or (ii) to prosecute or defend the Pending Actions, or any other action and (b) subject expressly to the reservation and preservation of rights and defenses in favor of the Settling Defendants contained in the Class Settlement Agreement, the Parties and all Class Members shall be restored to their respective *status quo ante* immediately prior to the date the Parties sign the Class Settlement Agreement. In such event, the Class Settlement Agreement and all negotiations, proceedings, documents prepared and statements made in connection herewith shall be without prejudice to the Settling Defendants and Plaintiffs, and shall not be deemed or construed to be an admission or confession by or against any Party of any fact, matter, or proposition of law, whether in the Pending Actions or otherwise.

(17) The Court expressly approves the releases set forth in the Class Settlement Agreement and makes part hereof and incorporates such releases as if fully set forth in this Final Order and Judgment *in extenso*.

(18) Nothing in this Final Order and Judgment shall preclude any action before the Court to enforce the terms of the Class Settlement Agreement.

New Orleans, Louisiana this 9th day of September, 2009.



STANWOOD R. DUVAL, JR.
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE